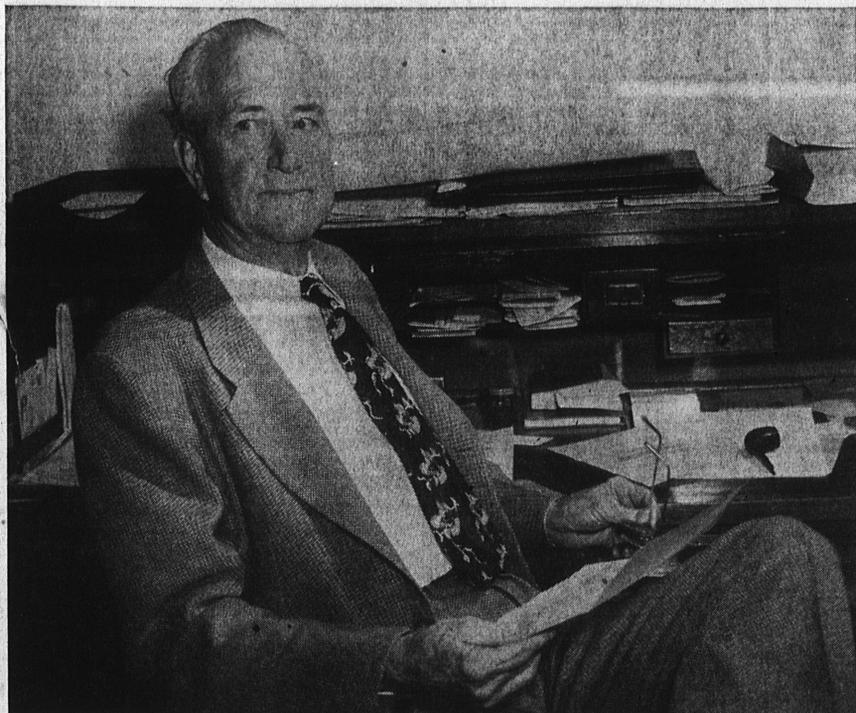


TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1952

Eleven

City's First Clerk Celebrates Election Anniversary



CELEBRATES FIRST ELECTION . . . A. H. Bartlett, who was elected City Clerk here on April 17, 1922, today is celebrating the 30th anniversary of that election. He was a cost

accountant at the Union Tool Co. when chosen to serve as the City Clerk for the newly incorporated City of Torrance.

First City Clerk Named In 1922 City Elections

By REID L. BUNDY, Managing Editor

Thirty years ago today—April 17, 1922—a young cost accountant at the Union Tool Co., predecessor of the National Supply Co., was elected to serve as the city clerk of the newly incorporated City of Torrance.

Today, by way of celebrating that election as the city's first clerk, the former Union Tool Co. accountant is in the City Clerk's office—and he has every right to be there—he's still the city clerk.

A. H. Bartlett, who first came to Torrance in 1912 to work as a timekeeper for the Union Tool Co., has been returned to office each four years since his 1922 election and still has two years to go on his current term. He was re-elected for his eighth term in April, 1950.

"That was my closest race," Bartlett says. He won over his opponent by 700 votes.

When Bartlett first set up office as the city clerk, his headquarters were at El Prado and Border, where the Foursquare Church is now located.

Some time later the city offices were moved to the corner of Post Ave. and Sartori, and were later moved upstairs over the present fire station on Cravens Ave.

In 1936 the new City Hall was constructed, and the city clerk has had his office in there since that time.

"I've certainly seen many changes in Torrance in the 30 years I've been part of the official city family," Bartlett recalled yesterday.

"I've seen city councils come and go, the latest one just last Tuesday," he said.

"I will end my eighth term in 1954," he said. "That might be the end of all of it, I don't know," he added.

When Bartlett first came to Torrance he was employed as a timekeeper for the Union Tool Co. During the depression, which hit late in 1914, many of the employees were laid off by the plant because of "decreased demand for oil well equipment."

Bartlett then went into the machine shops and learned nearly every phase of the machinist's trade from tool dressing to milling machine operation.

Plans Brewing for 1952 Queen Contest

Beauty and charm will be the deciding factors this year in the selection of a queen to reign as "Miss Torrance of 1952."

George Post, queen contest chairman, said yesterday that elaborate plans were brewing for the year's queen race including a beauty and charm contest to be held in the Civic Auditorium, and a fashionable coronation ball.

"Any Torrance girl can enter and each will have equal opportunity to win," he said. "There will be no selling of tickets required of the contestants."

This year's queen contest is being staged to help the Torrance Area Youth Band finance the purchase of 50 uniforms for the Junior Band, according to W. E. Bowen, president of the organization.

In previous years the contest was sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club to raise funds to construct a YWCA building in Torrance. With the successful completion of that campaign and the erection of the new YWCA Center, the Juniors yielded sponsorship of the contest to the Youth Band organization.

"We want to make this year's contest the best yet. We'd like to see at least 100 vying for the queen title. There is nothing to sell, nothing to buy, and no box tops to send in. About the only requirement the contestants need fulfill are to be residents of Torrance, 16 years of age and, of course, they must be girls," Post stated.

He also gives credit to some of the employees who have been in his office for a number of years. Dale Riley, known as Christie to everyone around the City Hall, has been with him for 17 years. Others have been with him for several years.

Bartlett has been busy in private life, too. In 1913 he started the first insurance agency in Torrance, called the Torrance General Insurance. The same firm has been in existence since that time and is now operated by Lester T. King.

Bartlett also carried a Real Estate Brokers license until 1934 and was active in the development of the Torrance oil fields in the 1920s.

As for 1954, he isn't saying.

DAV Adjutant Flays Cutting Of VA Budget

Drastic cuts in the 1953 appropriation for the Veterans Administration as voted by the House of Representatives recently would amount to throwing away the keys to 50 of our veterans' hospitals, J. G. Caldwell, adjutant of the Torrance chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, said yesterday.

Commenting on the cuts recommended in Truman's budget by the House, Caldwell said the American Legion and the DAV were going to "go all out" to save the threatened veteran services and to see that there are sufficient hospital beds to care for the needy former servicemen.

If the cuts are allowed to go through, it may mean the closing of the Long Beach Veterans' facility or at least curtailing many of its vital functions, Caldwell warned.

He said national officers of the organization would fight to have the appropriations restored by the Senate when the item comes before them.

Fill Civic Aud For Chamber's Annual Banquet

More than 400 persons gathered at the Civic Auditorium last night for a revival of the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet and to hear Tony Cabooch, billed as the Ambassador from Pakistan, go into his act.

Even for those who knew who Tony was long before he was introduced, the program was hilariously funny.

A. D. Wagen, divisional director of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., served as master of ceremonies for the evening of fun.

Following a dinner of prime rib of beef served by the ladies of the Bert S. Crossland Legion Auxiliary, the Merry Mechanics, popular singing combo, entertained the audience. Judy Yeltona and Mickey Vandeventer thrilled the group with several duo-piano selections.

Robert I. Plomert Jr., president of the Chamber, introduced Congressman Cecil R. King, home for the Easter holidays; Supervisor Raymond V. Darby and other distinguished guests.

Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, slated to appear, had to forego the dinner because of illness, his office reported yesterday.

Cook has been active in juvenile work during the past few years and is a "guiding light" in the organization of the deputy auxiliary police, a youth group here, it was reported.

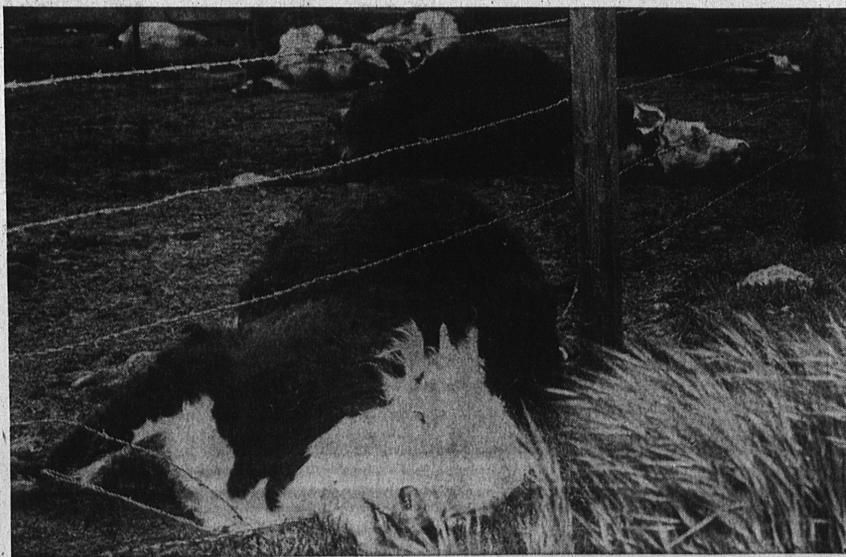
First Juvenile Officer for City Named By Stroh

Promotion of Police Officer D. C. Cook to juvenile officer and to the rank of sergeant was announced yesterday afternoon by Chief of Police John Stroh.

Cook, who has been a member of the local police department for six years, will serve as a liaison officer between the court of City Judge Otto B. Willett, the department, and the juvenile authorities of Los Angeles County, Stroh stated.

The promotion of Cook to juvenile officer marked the first time in the history of the city that such a position has been filled. The job was created to assist Judge Willett with juvenile problems as well as those concerning the police department, Stroh advised.

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ARSENIC OR OLD HAY . . . Chemists at the Sheriff's laboratory were trying this week to find out why 79 head of cattle on the George Agajanian farm died suddenly Saturday.

Arsenic was first thought to be the killing agent, but it was ruled out when stomach content of the cows failed to show any trace of the poison.

Death of Herefords Baffles Detectives

Sheriff's detectives yesterday were still in a dither trying to come up with some logical explanation for the sudden death of 79 Herefords out of 80 in a cattle feeding corral at Spencer and Earl Sts. in the Victory tract over the week-end.

Det. Sgt. C. E. Williams and Det. Sgt. C. W. McGowan of the Lennox station reported yesterday afternoon that laboratory analysis proved that no traces of arsenic were found in the stomachs of the animals or in their drinking water.

Preliminary investigations had hinted that the animals, which all died within a two-hour period, were fed lethal doses of arsenic either in their water or in celery greens which they had eaten.

Owner George Agajanian, who suffered a \$20,000 loss by the animals' death, took samples of similar greens and fed them to an already sick animal. Tuesday the Hereford was still eating the celery with little or no after-effects.

Agajanian told the Herald that he suspected several of his "neighbors," the closest of which resides about one-quarter mile from his feeding pens.

Although he would not reveal the name of any particular suspect, he said two or three had expressed desire to "get him out" of the area.

Only last month five of his beef cattle dropped dead, apparently from a similar poison as used this time.

Only one of 80 of the 600-pound Herefords in the death pen survived the ordeal, and it was in an apparent coma for nearly two days.

Dr. Rollin Smith, local veterinarian, gave the sick animal an arsenic antidote and it survived. It was this act which led the sheriff's men to believe that arsenic had been used.

Sgt. Williams said that it will take nearly ten days for the department laboratory to complete comprehensive tests to determine the exact nature of the deaths.

Narcotic Squad Officer To Address Civic Group

Plans to have Sgt. Bob Casatello, former Torrance police officer now with the sheriff's office, address a meeting of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn., were announced yesterday by Dave Dyer, program chairman for the civic group.

The lecture, scheduled for May 7, will be an elaboration of one of the officer's talks to the group earlier this year, Dyer said. He emphasized that the May 7 lecture would be for "adults only."

Sgt. Casatello, member of the Lennox station narcotics detail, is considered one of the best informed officers on juvenile narcotics in the southwest area of Los Angeles.

His discussions, more an open forum on the teenage dope traffic than a lecture, have been heard by several civic groups in the area including the Torrance Optimist Club.

Any adult is welcome to attend the NTCIA meeting May 7

Rites Pending For William Cox

Funeral services for William Charles Cox, 80, retired watchmaker of 1569 Plaza del Amo, were pending yesterday following his death Monday.

Date of the services, to be conducted by Rev. C. M. Northrup of the First Baptist Church, is pending the arrival of children from the east.

Cox, a native of Wadesville, Ind., had been a resident of Torrance for the past 5 years.

He leaves his widow, Effie Pearl Cox, of the home address; a son, William C. Cox, of 1609 Plaza del Amo; and two daughters, Lola Mary Wade and Elma Inez Windau.

Moore to Be Installed as VFW Commander In Long Beach Rites

Joint mass installation ceremonies for newly-elected post and auxiliary officers of the Fourth District, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will be held Saturday, April 19, at 7:30 p. m. in the Municipal Auditorium of Long Beach, according to Art Moore, commander of VFW Post No. 3251.

Moore, who was re-elected post commander of the Torrance area post recently, will be installed at the Long Beach ceremonies.

Preceding the installation, a banquet honoring Commander-in-Chief Frank C. Hilton of the VFW will be held in the Marine Room of the Wilton Hotel starting at 6 p. m., Moore said.

Ruby Stroh, member of the National Council of Administration, will install newly-elected auxiliary officers. Commander-in-Chief Hilton will install post officers.

Following the installation ceremonies, a group of headline vaudeville acts will entertain the audience.

Organization Of Area GOP Slated Tuesday

A slate of officers headed by William H. Tolson will be presented to members of the 68th District Republican Assembly next Tuesday evening, April 22, at a dinner meeting at the Fish Shanty in Waverly, it was announced yesterday.

A nominating committee has proposed a slate of officers with Tolson as president; Atty. Boris Woolley, vice president; Frank S. Solover, secretary and Dr. Alden Smith, treasurer.

Dr. Walter C. Boyd will speak on "National Issues of 1952" following installation of the new officers by Harold C. Ramser, president of the Los Angeles County Republican Assembly.



CHIEF STROH, JUDGE WILLETT, SGT. COOK . . . confer on appointment of juvenile officer

—HERALD PHOTO